

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 25-28 are pending in this application. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 1, 6, and 25-28 are currently amended.

Paragraph 61 of the specification has been amended to include that the innermost polystyrenic layer may include 70 to 90% by weight polystyrene. Basis for this amendment can be found in originally filed claims 4, 7, 25, and 26.

Claims 1, 6, 25, and 26 have been amended to more particularly define Applicant's invention in light of the prior art of record. Claims 1, 25, and 26 have been amended to recite that the core layer comprises from 10-15% polystyrene toughener, from 10-20% adhesive resin, and from 5-6% slip additives. Basis for this amendment can be found at least in Tables 1-4 on pages 15-18 of the present specification. Further, the limitations of claim 4 have been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 4 has been canceled.

New claim 28 has been added to specify that the polystyrenic layer comprises styrene. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 5, paragraph 21.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-8 and 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner states that it is not clear whether "70% to 90% styrene homopolymer" in line 4 of claim 1 is based on weight or volume and that the claim "lacks recitation of remaining 10% to 30% other component(s)". In order to obviate the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite that the specified amounts of styrene homopolymer are by weight. The claim has further been amended to recite "10-15% polystyrene toughener, 10-20% adhesive resin, and 5-6% slip additives". Basis for these amendments can be found in Tables 1-4 on pages 15-18 of the present specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

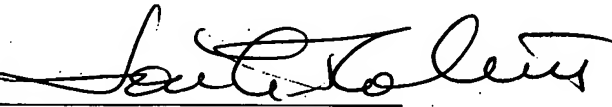
The Examiner also states that in claims 25-26, the phrase "from 70% to 90% styrene homopolymer and from 10% to 15% polystyrene toughener by weight of the layer" renders the claim indefinite. The Examiner indicated that it is not clear whether "by weight" applies to both components or just one. In order to obviate this rejection, Applicant has amended the claim to specify that "by weight" applies to both the styrene homopolymer component and the polystyrene toughener component. The Examiner has further amended these claims to recite "10-20% adhesive resin, and 5-6% slip additives" in order to further define the invention. Basis for these amendments can be found in Tables 1-4 on pages 15-18 of the present specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection that the phrase "styrene homopolymer comprises α -methylstyrene" renders the claim indefinite. The Examiner states that it is not "clear from the claim language whether applicant is trying to claim α -methylstyrene homopolymer or copolymer of styrene and α -methylstyrene." However, the claim specifically states that the styrene "homopolymer" comprises α -methylstyrene (see Specification, para. 5, page 21). A homopolymer by definition is not a copolymer. Thus, it would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the "styrene homopolymer" is not a "copolymer of styrene and α -methylstyrene". Nonetheless, in order to obviate the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has amended this claim to state that the polystyrenic layer comprises α -methylstyrene. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 5, para. 21. In addition, new claim 28 has been added to state that the polystyrenic layer comprises styrene. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

Applicant submits that based on the foregoing, claims 1-3, 5-8 and 25-27 are allowable. Applicant further requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should any further questions arise concerning this application or in the event the above amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the examiner and the examiner's supervisor prior to any new office action relating to the present Application. Attorney for the Applicant may be reached at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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